

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7888

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO

SUBJ: ILUSTROVANA PLITIKA ARTICLE

IMPLYING USIA ROLE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

CAMPAIGN AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA

REF : BELGRADE 5182

1. PAO AND IO RAISED ARTICLE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 DURING CALL ON ILUSTROVANA POLITIKA CHIEF EDITOR MIRKO MILOJKOVIC AND RESPONSIBLE EDITOR MIODRAG POPOVIC, PROTESTING IMPLICATION USIA SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN HOSTILE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE CAMPAIGN AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA. MILOJKOVIC ADMITTED ARTICLE "MIGHT CONTAIN SOME INACCURACIES", BUT INSISTED ON YUGOSLAV "RIGHT AND NEED TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST HOSTILE CAMPAIGN". PAO CONCURRED IN YUGOSLAV RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST REAL OR IMAGINED CAMPAIGN, BUT SUGGESTED THAT SUCH DEFENSE USE ONLY THE TRUTH, WHICH RECOMMENDED AS BEST ANTEDOTE IN LAST SECTION OF ARTICLE.

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2. PAO ALSO CALLED ARTICLE TO SECINFO BUDIMOVSIKI'S

ATTENTION DURING MEETING NOVEMBER 23. BUDIMOVSKI GLANCED AT ARTICLE AND STATED, HAD HE BEEN EDITOR, HE WOULD NOT HAVE RUN SUCH ARTICLE. RECALLED SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING CORRECTION FROM ACCUSATION AGAINST VOA AND ASK U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN CONTROLLING VIOLENT ANTI YUGOSLAV STATEMENTS FOUND IN EMIGRE PRESS ORIGINATING IN U.S. SAID "COULD NOT BELIEVE, EVEN GIVEN FREEDOM OF U.S. PRESS, THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD DO NOTHING RE SUCH STATEMENTS." ALSO SAID USIS BELGRADE MIGHT HAVE CASE AGAINST ILUSTROVANA POLITIKA WHICH COULD BE PURSUED UNDER TERMS YUGOSLAV PRESS LAW.

3. MILOJKOVIC COMMENTS TEND TO BEAR OUT OUR ASSUMPTION THAT ARTICLE REFLECTS MEDIA EFFORTS, SUPPORTED BY REGIME, TO FIND SCAPEGOATS ABROAD FOR INTERNAL PROBLEMS, WHICH CURRENTLY INCLUDE SOME SHORTAGES IN CONSUMER AREAS.

4. FULL TEXT ARTICLE AND MEMCONS FOLLOW UNDER COVER AIRGRAM. TOON

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